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McCone Returns to L.A. After Taking CIA Post

Industrialist Will Wind Up His Personal Affairs Here Before Moving to Capital

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President Kennedy Wednesday formally appointed John A. McCone, 59, experienced in top-secret matters with the Atomic Energy Commission and National Security Council, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency to succeed Allen W. Dulles.

McCone arrived in Los Angeles Wednesday night to take care of personal affairs before returning to Washington in October for "a few weeks of indoctrination." He will take over the CIA when Dulles retires in November.

A Republican, McCone was undersecretary of the Air Force under former President Truman and chairman of the AEC during the last three years of the Eisenhower administration.

He will take a leave from the Joshua Hendy Corp. to accept the \$21,000-a-year CIA post.

Difficult Duty

"I think it is a great privilege to serve your country in this very important area," he said. "Naturally, a man has serious qualms about accepting a job of this type, but you do your best."

McCone said Kennedy asked him to take the job last week.

"The President spoke to me on Tuesday," he said. "I was in Washington consulting with the Atomic Energy Commission and he asked me about the possibility of my accepting the assignment. I called on him at the White House."

He said his wife regretted having to leave their home in San Marino, "but she feels that in difficult times a person must accept responsibility of this type." His Washington home was up for sale when the President asked him to take the post.

"I'll put in long hours every day," he said. "I know the hours in government are very long."

McCone declined to comment on any changes he might have in mind for the CIA. He said Dulles, 68, would be a consultant.

The President called a special meeting with newsmen at Newport, R.I., to announce the appointment of the wealthy Los Angeles industrialist. He introduced McCone and Dulles as two who have made personal sacrifices to serve their country.

McCone and Dulles flew from Washington Wednesday morning to nearby Quonset Point Naval air station and shuttled by helicopter to Hammersmith Farm, where the President is spending a week's vacation with his family.

After the doomed Cuban invasion attempt last spring, the CIA was criticized for its intelligence-training role, but Mr. Kennedy did nothing to make Dulles the scapegoat.

He did start intensive surveys of the nation's intelligence capabilities. The administration reportedly has studied proposals that the CIA's functions be split so that undercover operations are directed separately from spying and more public methods of collecting security information.

The President, however, has not announced any over-all change in the intelligence set-up.

Mr. Kennedy, announcing, praised Dulles as a man who has a record "almost unique if not unique in the history of this country."

"He has served under eight presidents of the United States, beginning with President Wilson in

World War I—presidents of different parties...

"I know of no man who is a more courageous, selfless public servant than Mr. Allen Dulles," the President said.

He said Dulles has agreed to serve as a consultant on intelligence matters, "and therefore his long experience will be available to the people of this country."

Dulles called his successor "the ideal choice for a man to carry on this important work."

McCone said it will be difficult to fill Dulles' shoes, but "I will do my best."

During World War II McCone headed the California Shipbuilding Corp., which built nearly 500 ships. Since then he also has been the builder and operator of a tanker fleet.

Dulles is a brother of the late John Foster Dulles, secretary of state in the Eisenhower administration. Like his brother, he practices law in New York between periods of government service dating back to when he was a young man.